MARVEL COMICS
THE FOREIGNER'S GOING TO GET HELP FROM...
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™
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FEB
UK 95p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
...EVEN IF IT KILLS THEM BOTH!
DIRECT EDITION
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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

FOREIGN OBJECTS

GRANT & BUSCEMA story and art / ROSEN letters / SHAREN colors / POWERS cowboy / FINGEROTH group editor / DEFALCO chief

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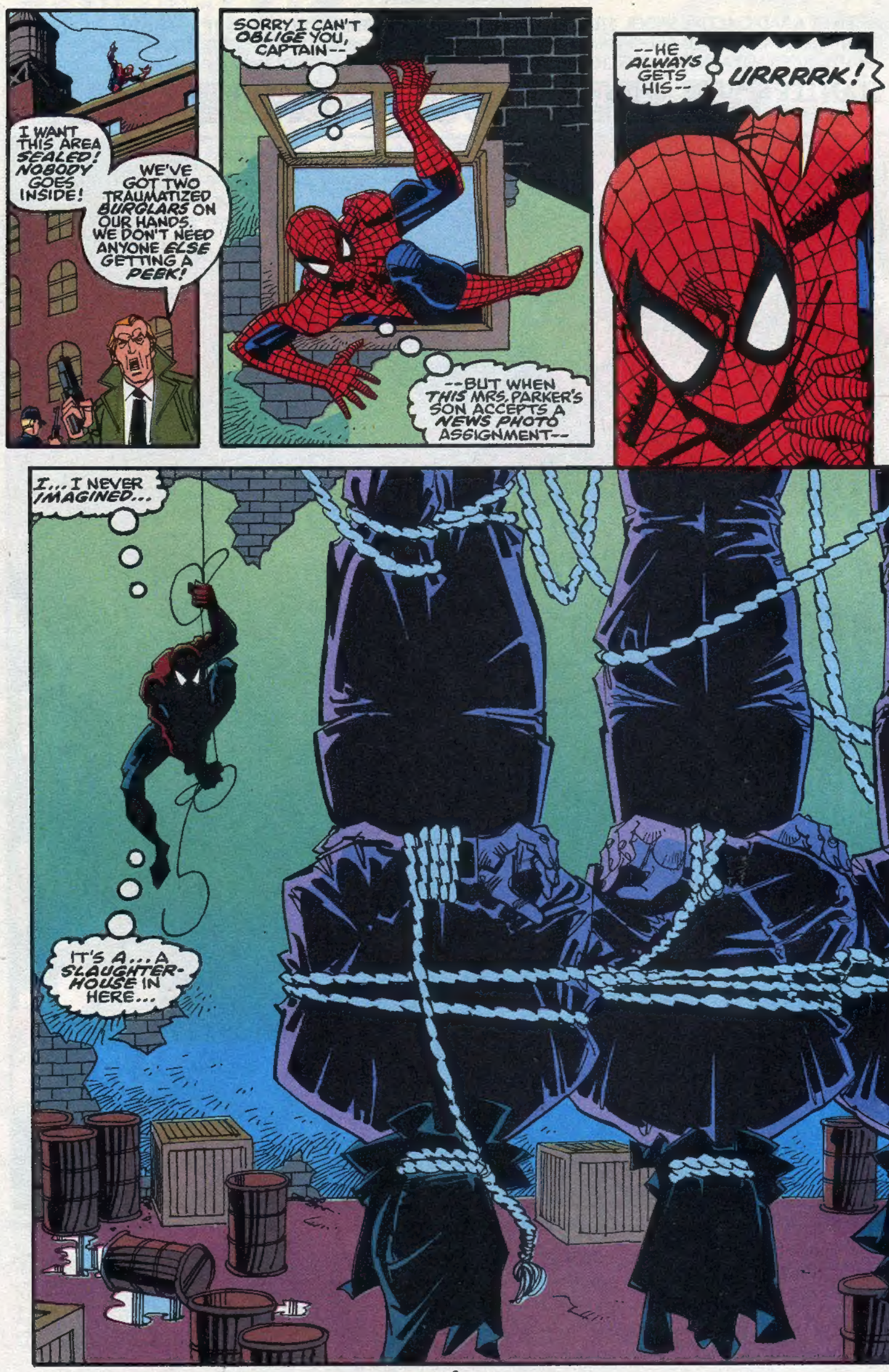

I WANT THIS AREA SEALED! NOBODY GOES INSIDE!
WE'VE GOT TWO TRAUMATIZED BURGLARS ON OUR HANDS. WE DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE GETTING A PEEK!
SORRY I CAN'T OBLIGE YOU, CAPTAIN--
--BUT WHEN THIS MRS. PARKER'S SON ACCEPTS A NEWS PHOTO ASSIGNMENT--
--HE ALWAYS GETS HIS--
URRRRK!
I... I NEVER IMAGINED...
IT'S A... A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE IN HERE...

AND ALL THEIR FACES COVERED BY... LOOKS LIKE A... FLAG?
SOME SORT OF MESSAGE? TERRORISTS MAYBE? IT'S NOT LIKE ANY FLAG I'VE EVER SEEN.
I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK!
STEEL YOURSELVES, BOYS.
SOME OF YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN WORSE THAN THIS--
UH-OH.
--BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE THESE SIGHTS EASIER TO TAKE.
YOU HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS, SEE THE FORCE SHRINK-- OR SAVE IT FOR COURT, AFTER WE GET THE PERP.
I DON'T WANT YOU DISCUSSING IT WITH ANYONE ELSE-- EVER!
GOT TO AGREE WITH YOU, CAPTAIN.
ROBBIE ROBERTSON'S JUST GOING TO RUN THIS STORY IN THE DAILY BUGLE WITHOUT PHOTOS.
WHAT KIND OF TWISTED, MURDEROUS THUG WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT--?!

SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING-- TROUBLE!
BUT WHERE?! NOW I'M NOT REGISTERING ANYTHING.
IF THERE WAS DANGER, IT PASSED. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
SPIDER-MAN. NOT THE ENEMY I EXPECTED TO FIND MY STOREHOUSE.
DEAD IN MY SIGHTS... ONE SHOT...
ALL THE TROUBLE HE'S CAUSED ME WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER FOR GOOD...
STILL, ONE DOES NOT WASTE ONE'S RESOURCES--
SUBJECT LOCKED IN?
AFFIRMATIVE.
--AND WITH MY RESOURCES WANING--
--HIS UNPREDICTABILITY IS SOMETHING I CAN USE--
THOOM!

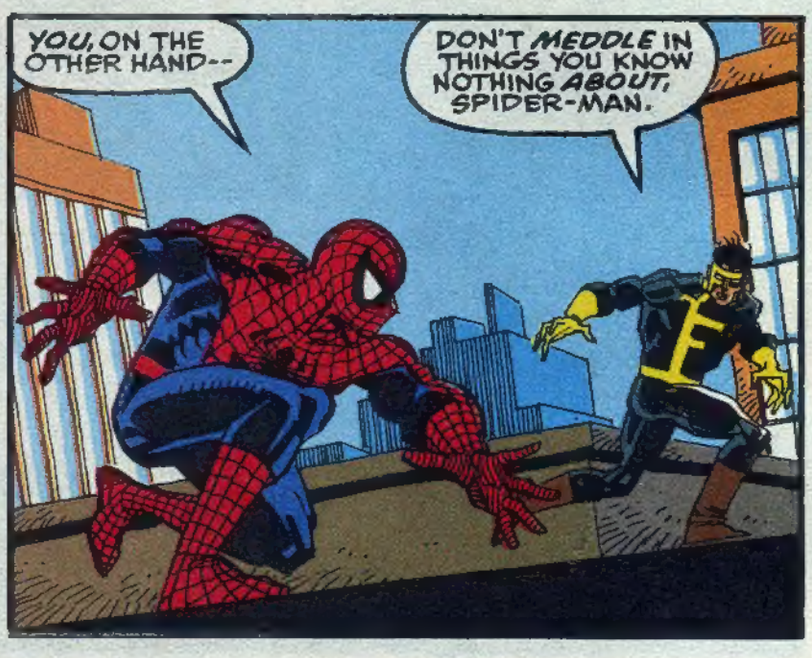
STUPID. SHOULD HAVE BEEN WATCHING MY BACK--
--INSTEAD OF SPIDER-MAN.
NOW I HAVE ONLY SECONDS--
--BEFORE THEY CATCH UP TO ME--
SEE?! DIDN'T I TELL YOU?!
STAY IN HIDING, I SAID! WATCH THE WAREHOUSE! HE'LL SHOW HIMSELF!
HOW SHREWD YOU ARE. WE BOW TO YOUR WISDOM.
NOW SHUT UP AND HELP US KILL HIM!
PULSE! SILENCE! SWIFT-1!
SO, PULSE, YOUR NEW MASTER GAVE YOU BRAINS!
DID HE GIVE YOU A HEART AND COURAGE AS WELL?!
DID YOU THINK I'D SIT STILL AND BE YOUR TARGET?
NOT AT ALL!
STILL, YOU'RE BEING A BIT PRESUMPTUOUS--
SILENCE!

ARRGH!
STRONG... BUT YOU WERE NOT BUILT FOR STRENGTH...
YOU WERE MADE FOR STEALTH... AND GUILE...
...BY THE TRUE MASTER OF THOSE ARTS!
SSS
RAK!
ONE DEAD.
NOW, THE TWO OF YOU--
--COME AND MEET YOUR MAKER!
UMMM... SWIFT-1...
BOOM!
WHAT IN--?!
OKAY, SO MY SPIDER-SENSE DOESN'T NEED TO GO INTO THE SHOP...
YOU MISSED, YOU IDIOT!
BUT MY SPEED WILL KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE!

AND WHO PUT HIM THERE?
THERE! HE'S DISARMED!

AND EASY PICKINGS.
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU'D BE ALLOWED TO TURN RENEGADE-- WITH WHAT YOU KNOW?
RENEGADE?! I DON'T KNOW WHAT STORIES HE'S TOLD YOU.

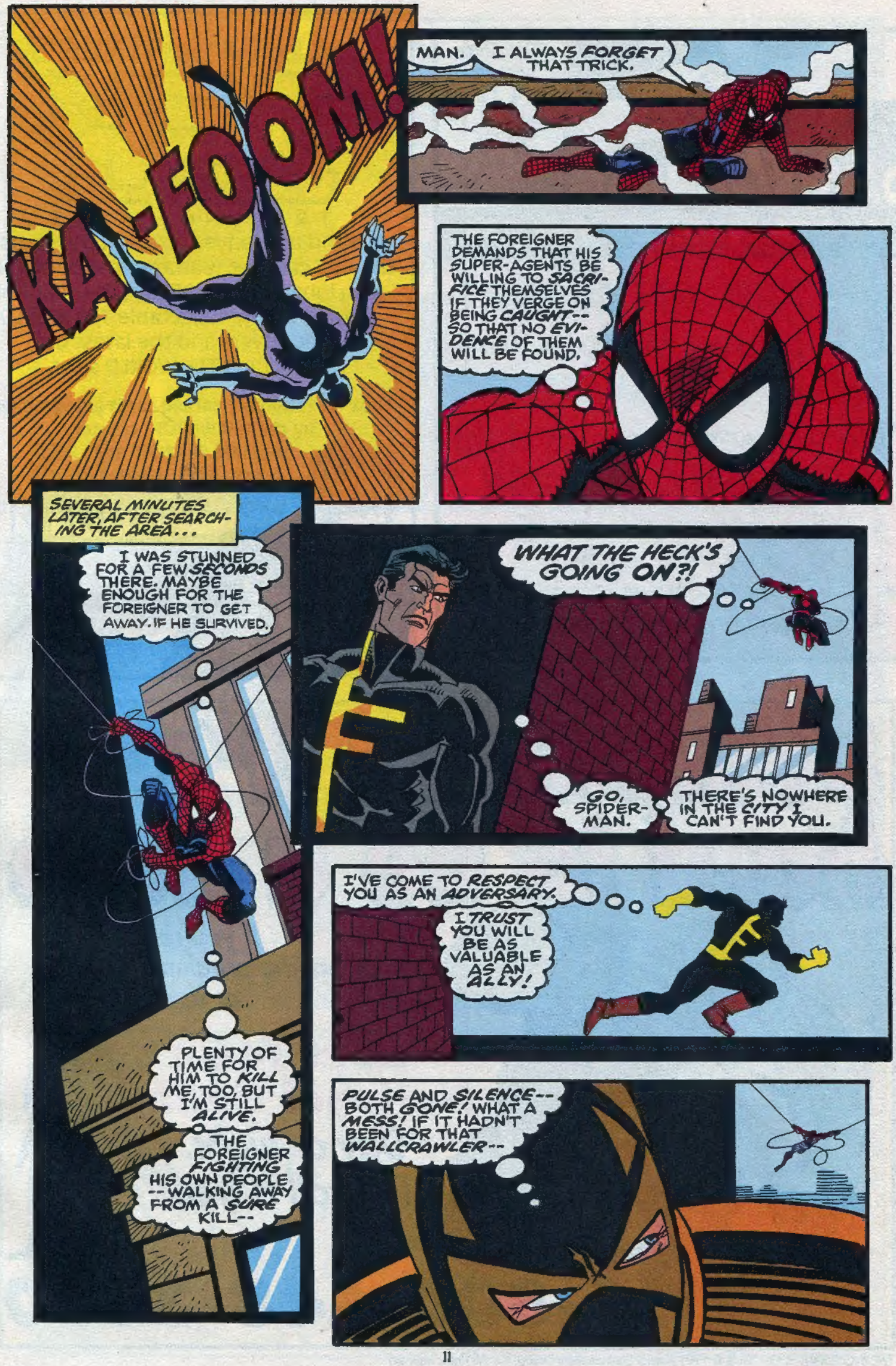
GEE, I HOPE THEY'RE BED-TIME STORIES!
SOMEONE'S GOING NIGHTY-NIGHT!
HEY! I KNOW YOU GUYS!
FROM WEB #'s 91-92.-MARK

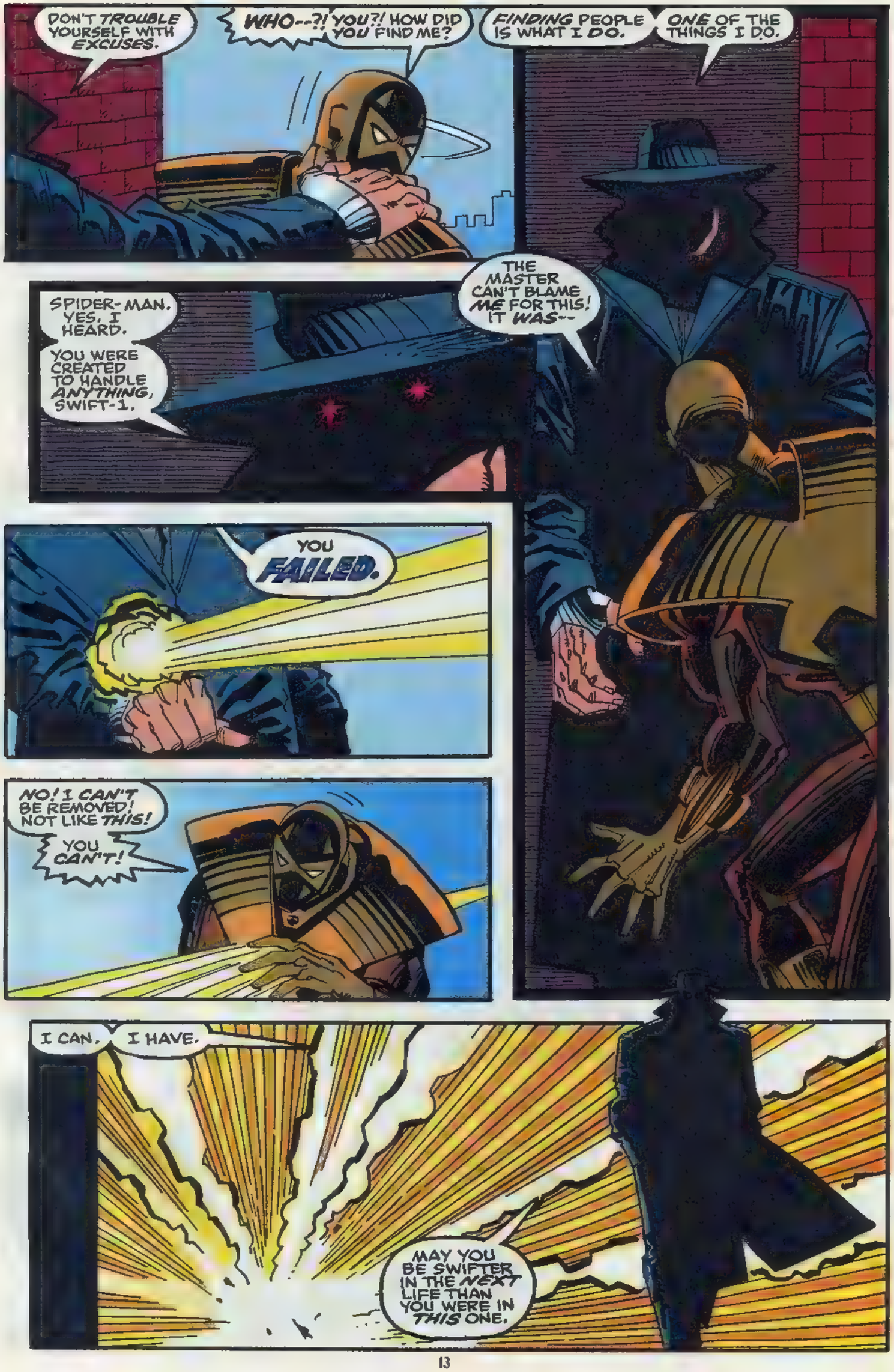

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND--
DON'T MEDDLE IN THINGS YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT, SPIDER-MAN.

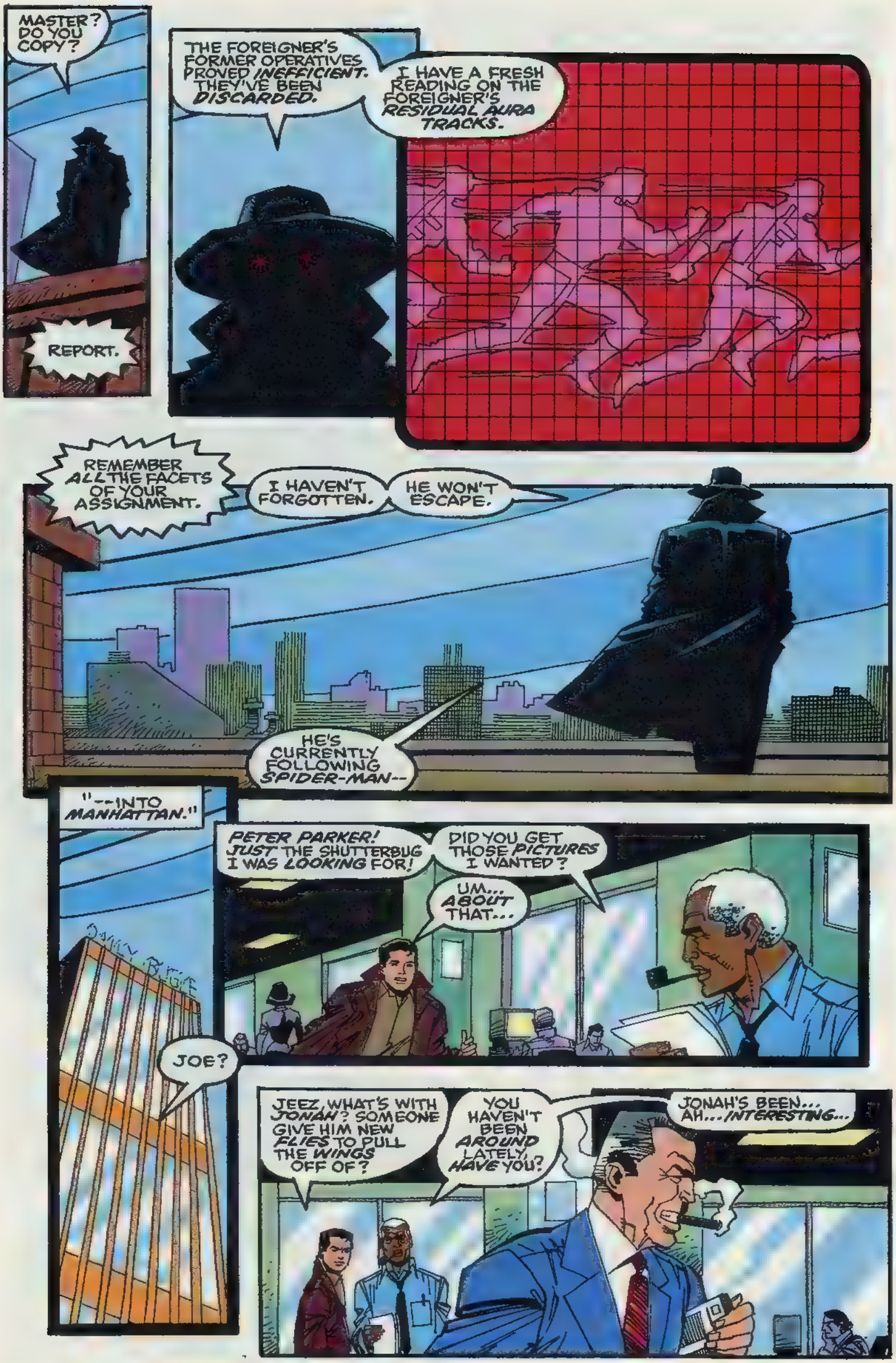
AW, NO ONE LETS ME HAVE ANY FUN!
TWIPP
HEY, HOW DO YOU DO THAT VOICE MODULATION THING?

WHERE'S THE MIKE HIDDEN? IN YOUR MASK?
I JUST WANT TO LOOK!
TWAP!
I WON'T BREAK IT, I PROMISE!

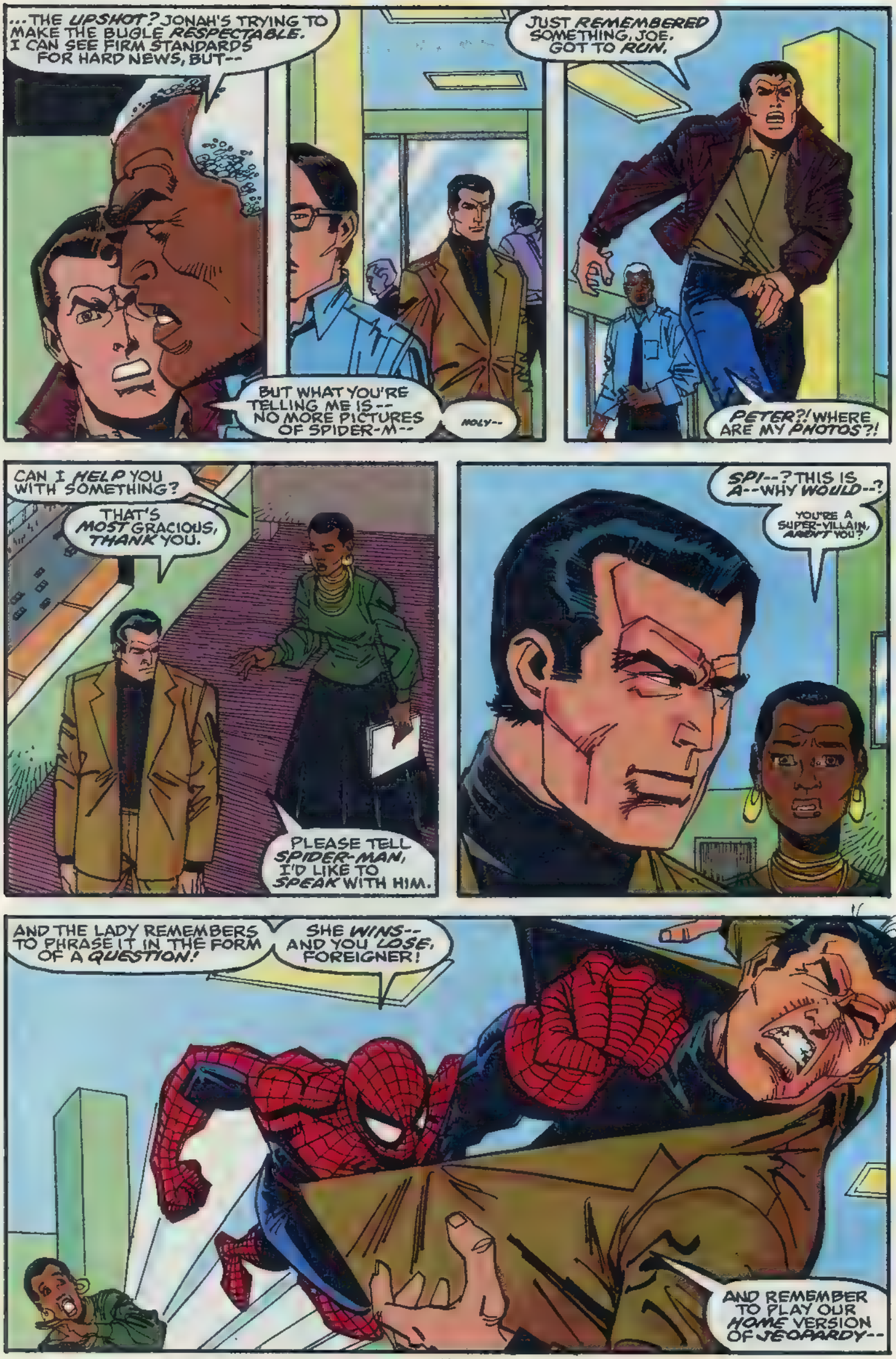
WHOOPS! SORRY!
THE FOREIGNER?!
BUT... THOSE WERE YOUR MEN...
EXCUSE ME A SECOND--
WHAT?! HE KNEW! SOMEHOW HE KNEW!
CAN'T YOU HIT ANYTHING?!
FOOM!
GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR TRYING, BUNKY!
I DON'T SEE YOU DOING MUCH!
WOK!
YOU WERE A FOOL TO CHALLENGE ME, PULSE,
YOU AND YOUR NEW MASTER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
NO!
MY SELF-DESTRUCT CONTROL-- THE ONE YOU BUILT IN!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?!


KA-FOOM!
MAN. I ALWAYS FORGET THAT TRICK.
THE FOREIGNER DEMANDS THAT HIS SUPER-AGENTS BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES IF THEY VERGE ON BEING CAUGHT-- SO THAT NO EVIDENCE OF THEM WILL BE FOUND.
SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, AFTER SEARCHING THE AREA...
I WAS STUNNED FOR A FEW SECONDS THERE. MAYBE ENOUGH FOR THE FOREIGNER TO GET AWAY. IF HE SURVIVED.
PLENTY OF TIME FOR HIM TO KILL ME, TOO, BUT I'M STILL ALIVE.
THE FOREIGNER FIGHTING HIS OWN PEOPLE -- WALKING AWAY FROM A SURE KILL--
WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?!
GO, SPIDER-MAN.
THERE'S NOWHERE IN THE CITY I CAN'T FIND YOU.
I'VE COME TO RESPECT YOU AS AN ADVERSARY.
I TRUST YOU WILL BE AS VALUABLE AS AN ALLY!
PULSE AND SILENCE-- BOTH GONE! WHAT A MESS! IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT WALLCRAWLER--

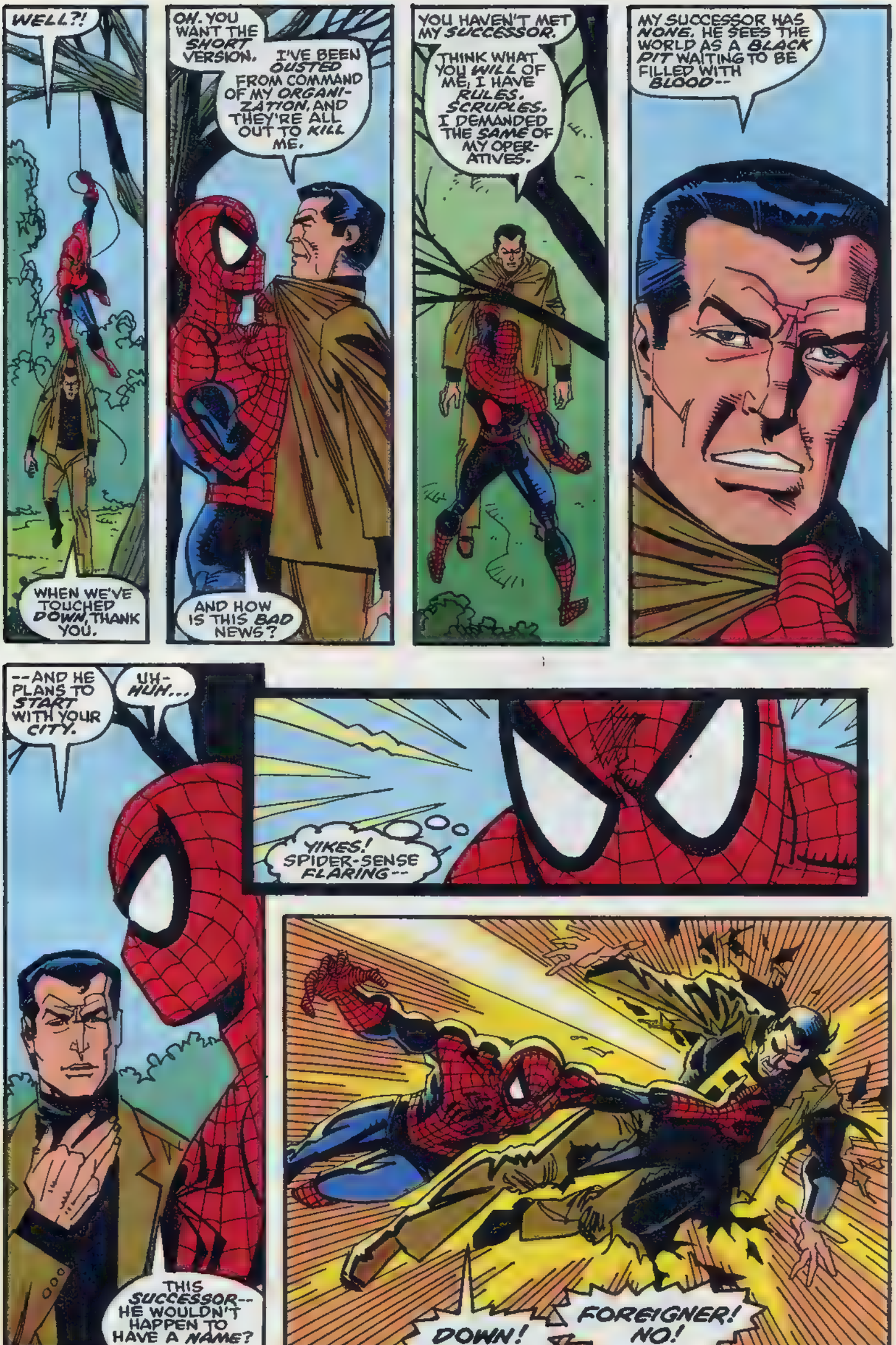

DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF WITH EXCUSES.
WHO--?! YOU?! HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
FINDING PEOPLE IS WHAT I DO.
ONE OF THE THINGS I DO.
SPIDER-MAN. YES, I HEARD.
YOU WERE CREATED TO HANDLE ANYTHING, SWIFT-1.
THE MASTER CAN'T BLAME ME FOR THIS! IT WAS--
YOU FAILED.
NO! I CAN'T BE REMOVED! NOT LIKE THIS!
YOU CAN'T!
I CAN.
I HAVE.
MAY YOU BE SWIFTER IN THE NEXT LIFE THAN YOU WERE IN THIS ONE.


MASTER? DO YOU COPY?
REPORT.
THE FOREIGNER'S FORMER OPERATIVES PROVED INEFFICIENT. THEY'VE BEEN DISCARDED.
I HAVE A FRESH READING ON THE FOREIGNER'S RESIDUAL AURA TRACKS.
REMEMBER ALL THE FACETS OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.
HE WON'T ESCAPE.
HE'S CURRENTLY FOLLOWING SPIDER-MAN--
"--INTO MANHATTAN."
PETER PARKER! JUST THE SHUTTERBUG I WAS LOOKING FOR!
DID YOU GET THOSE PICTURES I WANTED?
UM... ABOUT THAT...
DAILY BUGLE
JOE?
JEEZ, WHAT'S WITH JONAH? SOMEONE GIVE HIM NEW FLIES TO PULL THE WINGS OFF OF?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND LATELY, HAVE YOU?
JONAH'S BEEN... AH... INTERESTING...

SOON...
THERE YOU ARE! WASN'T SURE I COULD MAKE IT--SO MUCH GOING ON--
WELL... THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, DEAR.
I'VE DONE IT, MARLA! I'VE DONE IT!
THE NEW DAILY BUGLE! FRONT TO BACK JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE!
LET THEM LAUGH AT THIS!
I'M SURE IT READS VERY WELL, DEAR--
--BUT I'M NOT HERE ABOUT YOUR PAPER.
LOOK, I TOOK TIME OUT--
HEY, BABE. THIS THE GUEST OF HONOR?
MY HUSBAND, YES. JONAH, THIS IS DIRK.
"BABE"?
WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOING ON?!
NOTHING SORDID, DEAR. DIRK'S MY LAWYER.
I'M DIVORCING YOU.
HOW MUCH IS YOUR SHARE OF THE DAILY BUGLE WORTH, ANYWAY?


...THE UPSHOT? JONAH'S TRYING TO MAKE THE BUGLE RESPECTABLE. I CAN SEE FIRM STANDARDS FOR HARD NEWS, BUT--
BUT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME IS-- NO MORE PICTURES OF SPIDER-M--
MOLY--
JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING, JOE. GOT TO RUN.
PETER?! WHERE ARE MY PHOTOS?!
CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING?
THAT'S MOST GRACIOUS, THANK YOU.
PLEASE TELL SPIDER-MAN, I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH HIM.
SPI--? THIS IS A--WHY WOULD--?
YOU'RE A SUPER-VILLAIN, AREN'T YOU?
AND THE LADY REMEMBERS TO PHRASE IT IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION!
SHE WINS-- AND YOU LOSE, FOREIGNER!
AND REMEMBER TO PLAY OUR HOME VERSION OF JEOPARDY--

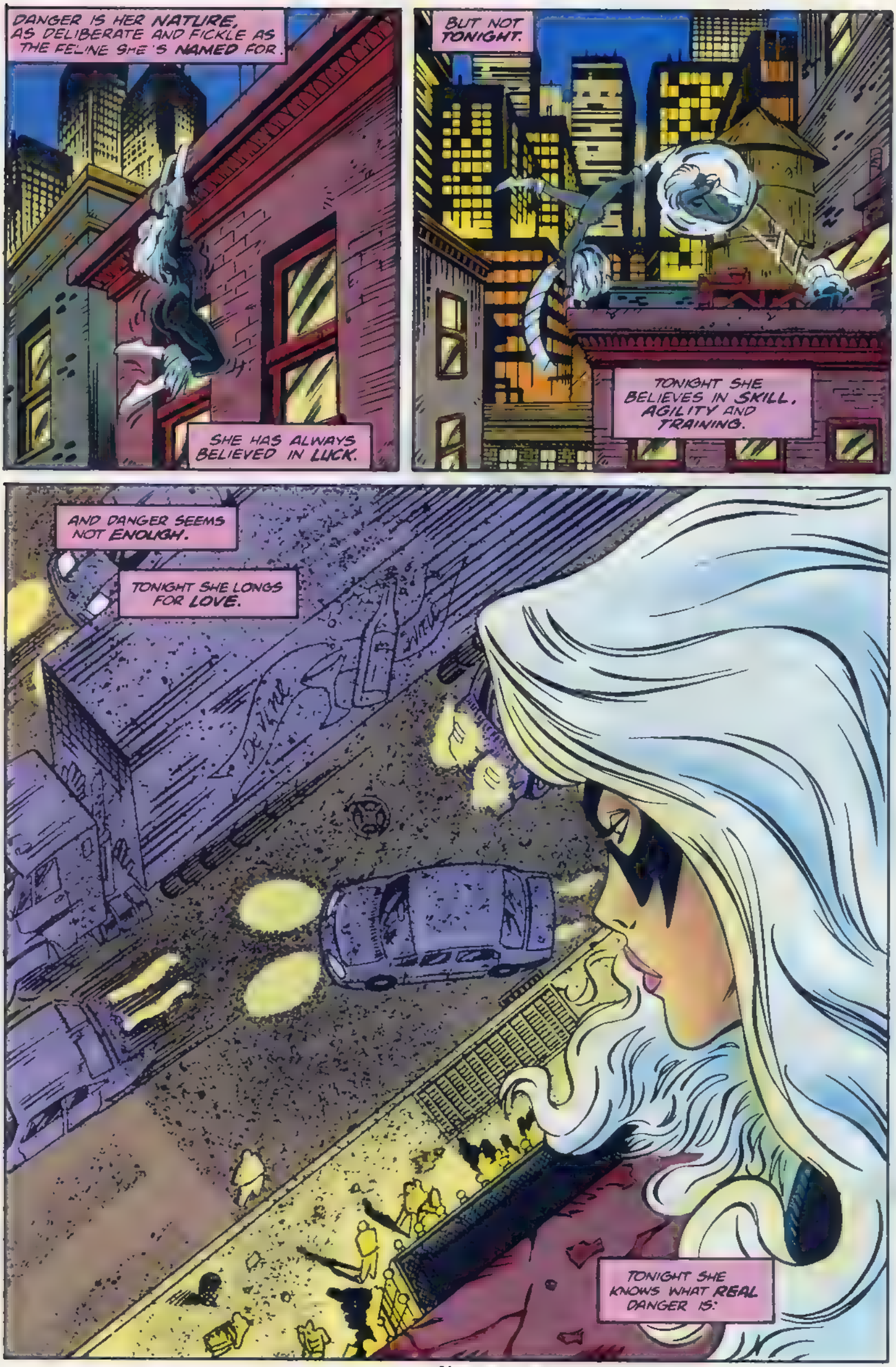
--IT'S GOOD FOR WHILING AWAY LONG YEARS IN THE SLAMMER!
HEY, I'LL DO THE JOKES AROUND HERE!
HOW'S THIS FOR JEOPARDY?
MAKE A MOVE BEFORE I GET YOU TO THE COPS AND IT'S SPLAT CITY, LOOK OUT BELOW.
YOU SURPRISE ME, SPIDER-MAN.
I'D HAVE THOUGHT TRIVIAL PURSUIT TO BE MORE YOUR STYLE.
SPEAKING OF TRIVIAL PURSUIT, HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
ALLOW ME SOME SECRETS. HOW IS UNIMPORTANT.
I CAME TO YOU FOR HELP!
YEAH, LIKE I'M GOING TO HELP A KILLER.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT KILLING!
WEB ME UP IF YOU WANT. HELP ME, AND I WILL TURN MYSELF IN TO THE POLICE AND CONFESS MY CRIMES.
YOU HAVE MY WORD! MY WORD, SPIDER-MAN!
JUST HEAR ME OUT, PLEASE!
YOUR WORD, HUH?
YOU'VE GOT TWO MINUTES. I'M LISTENING.

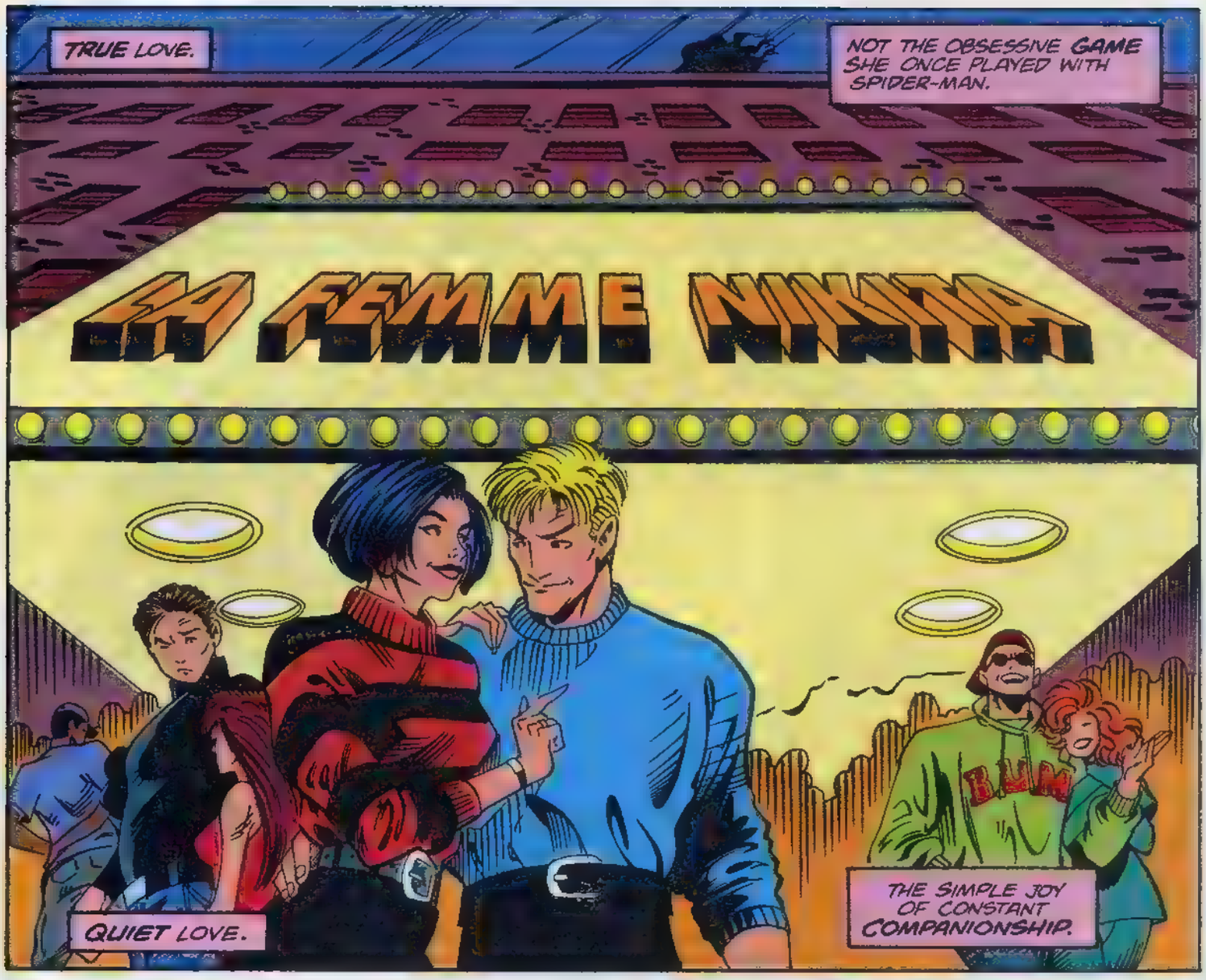

WELL?!
WHEN WE'VE TOUCHED DOWN, THANK YOU.
OH. YOU WANT THE SHORT VERSION. I'VE BEEN OUSTED FROM COMMAND OF MY ORGANIZATION, AND THEY'RE ALL OUT TO KILL ME.
AND HOW IS THIS BAD NEWS?
YOU HAVEN'T MET MY SUCCESSOR.
THINK WHAT YOU WILL OF ME; I HAVE RULES. SCRUPLES. I DEMANDED THE SAME OF MY OPERATIVES.
MY SUCCESSOR HAS NONE. HE SEES THE WORLD AS A BLACK PIT WAITING TO BE FILLED WITH BLOOD--
--AND HE PLANS TO START WITH YOUR CITY.
UH-HUH...
YIKES! SPIDER-SENSE FLARING--
THIS SUCCESSOR-- HE WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A NAME?
DOWN!
FOREIGNER! NO!

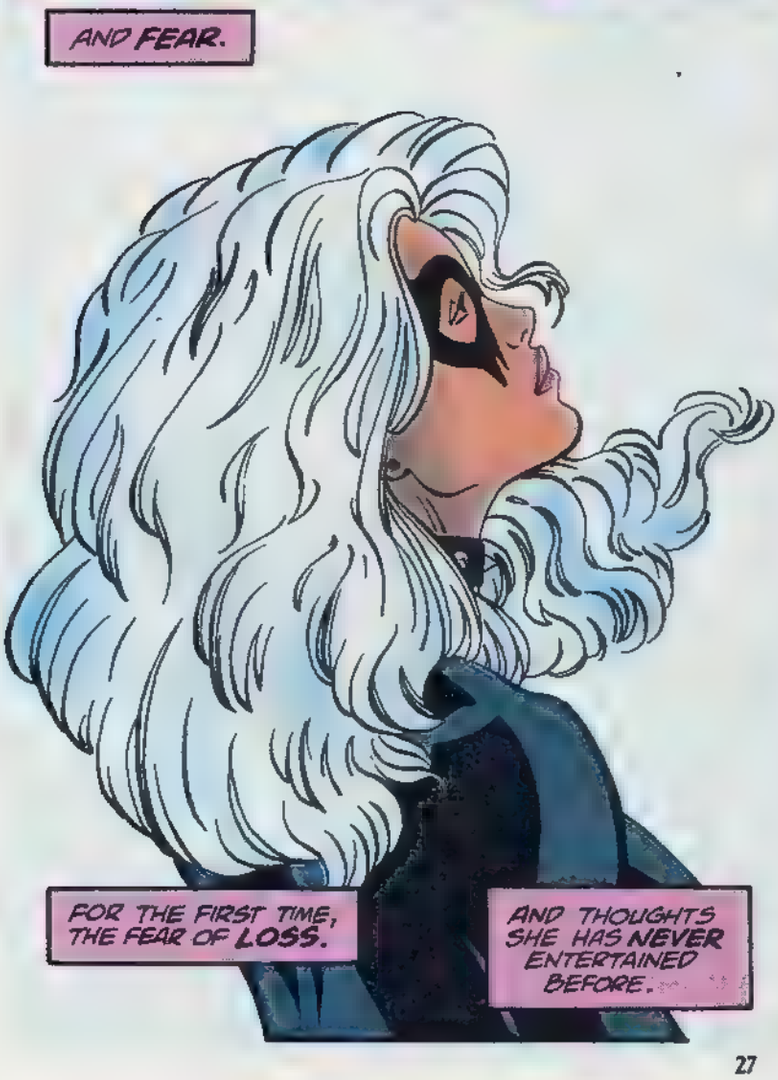
AWAY FROM HIM! THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
OH, SWELL.
MY BROKER TOLD ME TO BUY UP FLOPPY HAT AND OVER-COAT FUTURES--
--BUT NOOOOOOOO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU'RE MAD!
I HAD TO GO PUT ALL MY MONEY IN POGS!
SURE I'M MAD! WOULDN'T YOU BE?
NO!
I COULD'VE BEEN RETIRED BY NOW!
WHO DIED AND MADE YOU E.F. HUTTON?!
WHADDAYAMEAN "NO"?!

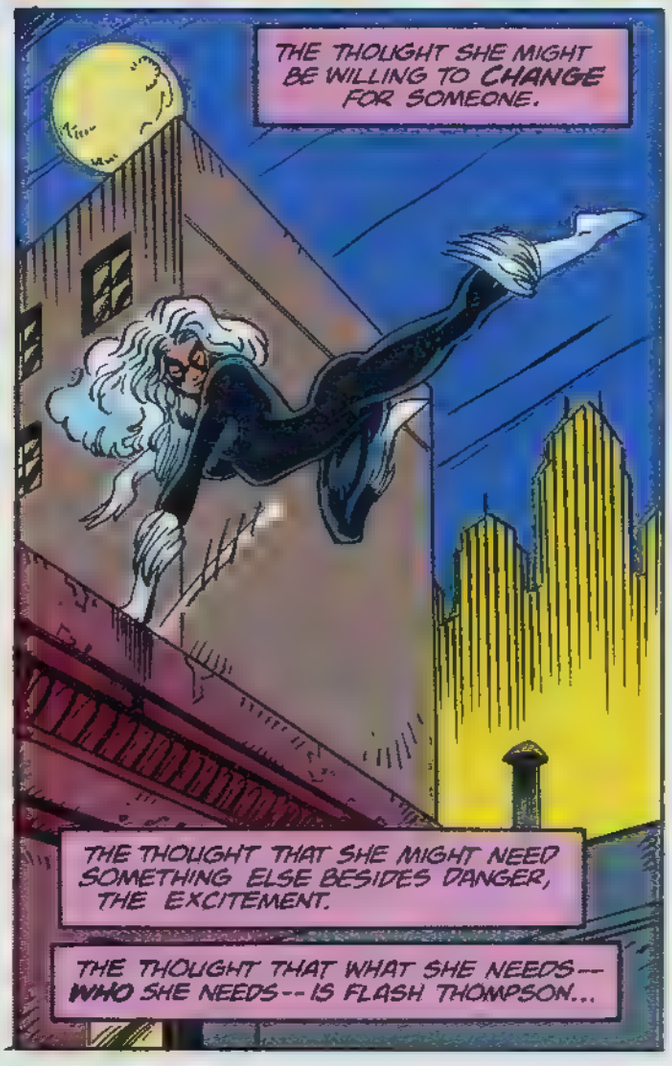
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU REALLY WANT THE JOB...
QUIET! I WOULD HAVE LET YOU LIVE, YOU SIMPERING BOOR.
NOW YOU AND THE FOREIGNER WILL BOTH DIE--
--AT THE HANDS OF DEADAIM!
UM...DID I MENTION HE AND I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW EACH OTHER ALL THAT WELL?
NEXT ISSUE: FALL OUT!

MANHATTAN. CITY OF LIGHT.
CITY OF DANGER.
SOME HERE HAVE DANGER THRUST UPON THEM.
OTHERS SEEK IT.
SOME LIVE FOR IT.
THEN THERE IS THE BLACK CAT.
STAN LEE PRESENTS THE BLACK CAT IN FATEFUL DISTRACTIONS
STEVEN GRANT -- WRITER
NELSON ORTEGA -- PENCILER
HARRY CANDELARIO -- INKER
DAVE SHARPE -- LETTERER
CHIA-CHI WANG -- COLORIST
MARK POWERS -- EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH -- GR. EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO -- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF


DANGER IS HER NATURE, AS DELIBERATE AND FICKLE AS THE FELINE SHE'S NAMED FOR.
SHE HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED IN LUCK.
BUT NOT TONIGHT.
TONIGHT SHE BELIEVES IN SKILL, AGILITY AND TRAINING.
AND DANGER SEEMS NOT ENOUGH.
TONIGHT SHE LONGS FOR LOVE.
TONIGHT SHE KNOWS WHAT REAL DANGER IS.


TRUE LOVE.
NOT THE OBSESSIVE GAME SHE ONCE PLAYED WITH SPIDER-MAN.
LA FEMME NIKITA
QUIET LOVE.
THE SIMPLE JOY OF CONSTANT COMPANIONSHIP.


AND FEAR.
FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE FEAR OF LOSS.
AND THOUGHTS SHE HAS NEVER ENTERTAINED BEFORE.


THE THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE WILLING TO CHANGE FOR SOMEONE.
THE THOUGHT THAT SHE MIGHT NEED SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES DANGER, THE EXCITEMENT.
THE THOUGHT THAT WHAT SHE NEEDS-- WHO SHE NEEDS-- IS FLASH THOMPSON...

BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL COMICS

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RALF'S RETORTS

We've been hearing an awful lot over the past year or so about certain creators freeing themselves from the yoke of corporate confinement. Once unleashed from this oppressive, assembly line system, their imaginations would soar to unimagined heights, and we awestruck readers would be treated to an explosion of quality comics. Baloney! So far, these titans of the terminally tame have "treated" us to a dizzying array of pathetic Marvel rip-offs. This paucity of originality has disappointed me greatly. I enjoy good comics. And the last thing I want to settle down with is a third-generation knock-off of Wolverine who's part of a genetically-enhanced, government-sanctioned squad of similarly shallow creations.

But, that's what's out there. The good news is you, the ever-discriminating, can't-take-'em-for-granted reader, have been avoiding this mush as if it were the plague. Way to go. Despite the intense competition, Marvel (and recently, DC) titles are being purchased in increasing numbers by story-starved consumers. Meanwhile, the ultra-hip, way-cool, don't-expect-no-writin'-here comics are lining the retailers' shelves, like old wallpaper. The comics buying public had a dalliance with these plot-less wonders, and have returned safely (if a bit dazed) to the place where characterization and storytelling take their honored place alongside the visuals. Here.

But that isn't the end of the tale. The latest trend among the trendy is to create brand-new "consistent" universes, filled with dozens of cookie-cutter characters that actually can interact between titles! Wow! They don't interact for any particular reason, they just meet because it's part of the universe thing. Folks, the most successful fantasy world since Tolkien (the good ol' M.U.) didn't come cut from whole cloth. It grew organically; a living entity — bit by bit — book by book — without being pre-packaged or pre-planned. The current crop of universe makers in our business remind me of the former communist countries trying to become capitalist overnight. It doesn't happen. It takes years of hard work, luck, and lots of love by the caretakers.

For me, it's been a kick to see the venerable old Marvel pantheon proudly standing its ground, while a legion of unworthy upstarts tries to emulate its intricate and wondrous interplay. And fails. We're in the publishing biz for the long haul, the marathon, the full twelve rounds. And a lot of people out there must be happy about that. I mean, if Marvel goes away, who are these bozos going to rip-off in their noble march to creative nirvana?

Ralph Macchio

Ralph Macchio
Make Mine Marvel — Forever

THE BULL'S EYE

by RICK PARKER

It's party time, Marveloids! No, we're not talking about Christmas or New Year's festivities ... at this writing, it's October, and we've just celebrated two different kinds of parties! First up to plate was our shindig celebrating the completion of another smash Marvel softball season! Photostat operator/team manager **Robbie Carosella** handed out the awards to Marvel's greatest softball heroes.

MVP of the year was Associate Editor **Mark** (SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN) **Powers,** whose softball sense was tingling all season! The Golden Glove award for Best Fielder went to Editor **Nel** (IRON MAN) **Yomtov,** who played like a Golden Avenger!

Paste-up guy **Joe Caponsacco** and typesetter **Dan Carr** tied for the Heavy Hitters Award, while SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN cover painter **Vince Evans** was branded Star of the Future. Rookie of the Year was **Nancy Paletti** of our Manufacturing Department. The award for comeback of the year went to Assistant Editor **Joe Andreani**, who was injured in a game against DC last year and was out of commission for most of last season.

Entertainment at the softball party was provided by the Marvel house band, led by PUNISHER editor **Don Daley.** Other band-members include Romita Raiders **DeLayne Hawkins** and **Scott Koblish,** promo writer **Jim Krueger, Nel** "Golden Harp" **Yomtov,** and book designer **Joe Kaufman.** A high point of the evening was Bullpenner **Steve Bunche**'s unforgettable rendition of "Louie Louie."

Just a few days after the softball party came our infra-traditional Halloween party, which included people in crazy costumes competing in bizarre competitions — much like a typical episode of TV's "Let's Make a Deal!" The winners in our Hallo-lympics this year included **Kevin** (Direct Sales) **Tang** and **Ruth** (Artwork Returns) **DeJoya** in the Living Mummy Wrap and Colorist **Paul Becton** in the Black Bolt Scream Contest. Associate editor **Tim Tuohy** devoured the competition in the Donut Bite-off, and intern **Chris Fagan** won the Serpent Society Slither. Executive Vice President **Bob Losey** took the Musical Chairs contest, buns down.

Other winners — in the Lean-to Contest: Assistant Editor **Spencer Lamm** and Editor **Rob** (NOVA) **Tokar;** in the Fishin' For Comics event, letterer **Ed Lazellari,** aided by Distribution Analyst **Joan Smolinski;** in Bobbing for Comics, Associate Editor **Mike Lackey,** (for the second straight year!), and in the Comic Balancing category, **Marina Lum-Kang** from Licensing. (We should note here that no actual comics were injured during any of these events!)

Best costume awards went to Production Assistant **Stephanie Hallberg** as Roadkill, and former staffer **Chuck Kim** as the inimitable, Squirrel Girl! Runner-up was SECRET DEFENDERS inker **Don Hudson** as the Joker (who?). Don also took the award for stuffing an incredible 20 pieces of Dubble Bubble gum in his mouth!

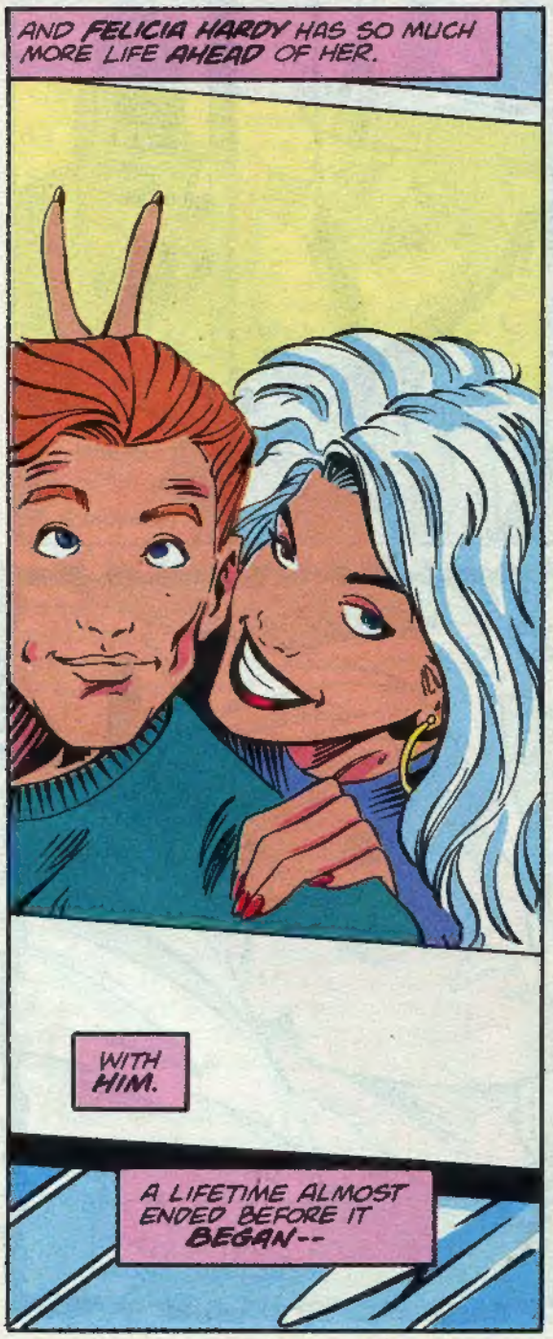
In all, the '93 Halloween bash was a spookerific success. Nobody lost an eye, nobody hurled, and nobody died. Wait — maybe it wasn't a total success after all!

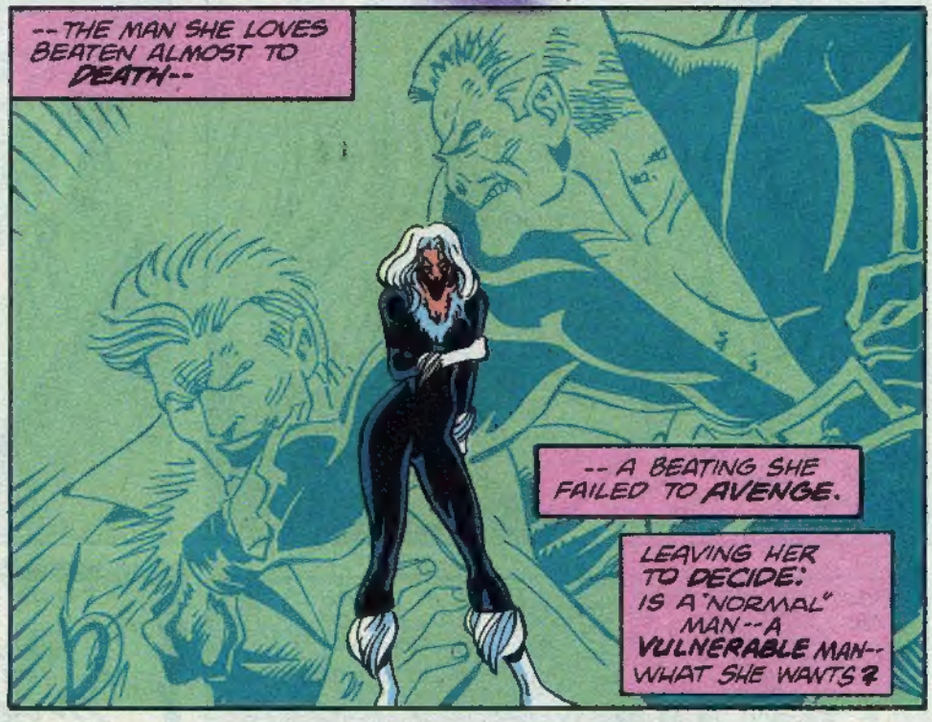
HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- **BARBIE FASHION #38:** It takes courage to go caroling!
- **BOOK OF THE DEAD #3 OF 4:** Classic tales of **Frankenstein** and **Man-Thing!**
- **DAREDEVIL: MAN WITHOUT FEAR #5 of 5:** DD's *origin* concludes!
- **DEATHLOK #32:** Timestream wants to kill **Captain America!**
- **DR. STRANGE #62:** The mysterious "Strange" clashes with **Doctor Doom!**
- **FANTASTIC FOUR #385:** **Sub-Mariner** and **Ant-Man** guest-star in this *Starblast* crossover!
- **GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #19:** The return of **Varnae,** King of Vampires!
- **HELLSTORM #11:** A fallen angel wants to kill his father!
- **HOKUM & HEX #6:** Trip meets **Bloodshed!**
- **IRON MAN #301:** Someone's digging up Stark's secrets!
- **LAWDOG #10:** The final issue includes a *trading card!*
- **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT JANUARY 1994:** Free for all our fans!
- **MOON KNIGHT #59:** **Bloodline** dies, but lives! (Huh?!)
- **NEW WARRIORS #44:** **Namorita** is back, with a shocking *new look!* Talk about your fish out of water!
- **PUNISHER 2099 #13:** The final chapter of *Fall of the Hammer!* Spidey 2099 guest stars!
- **PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #63:** Frank's behind bars — but he's *still* the Punisher!
- **SILVER SURFER #89:** In search of Captain Marvel's son, **Legacy!**
- **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #209:** A ring of assassins targets the **Foreigner!**
- **SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #4:** Spidey reveals his *secret identity* to the world!
- **WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKWORLD #18:** The stunning conclusion of *Teklords!*
- **THOR #471:** The thrilling conclusion of *Blood and Thunder!*
- **VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN #1 OF 3:** Mixin' it up with Morbius!
- **X-FORCE #31:** X-Force tries to put **Project: Widewake** to sleep!
- **X-MEN CLASSIC #92:** The secrets of **Rachel Summers** revealed!

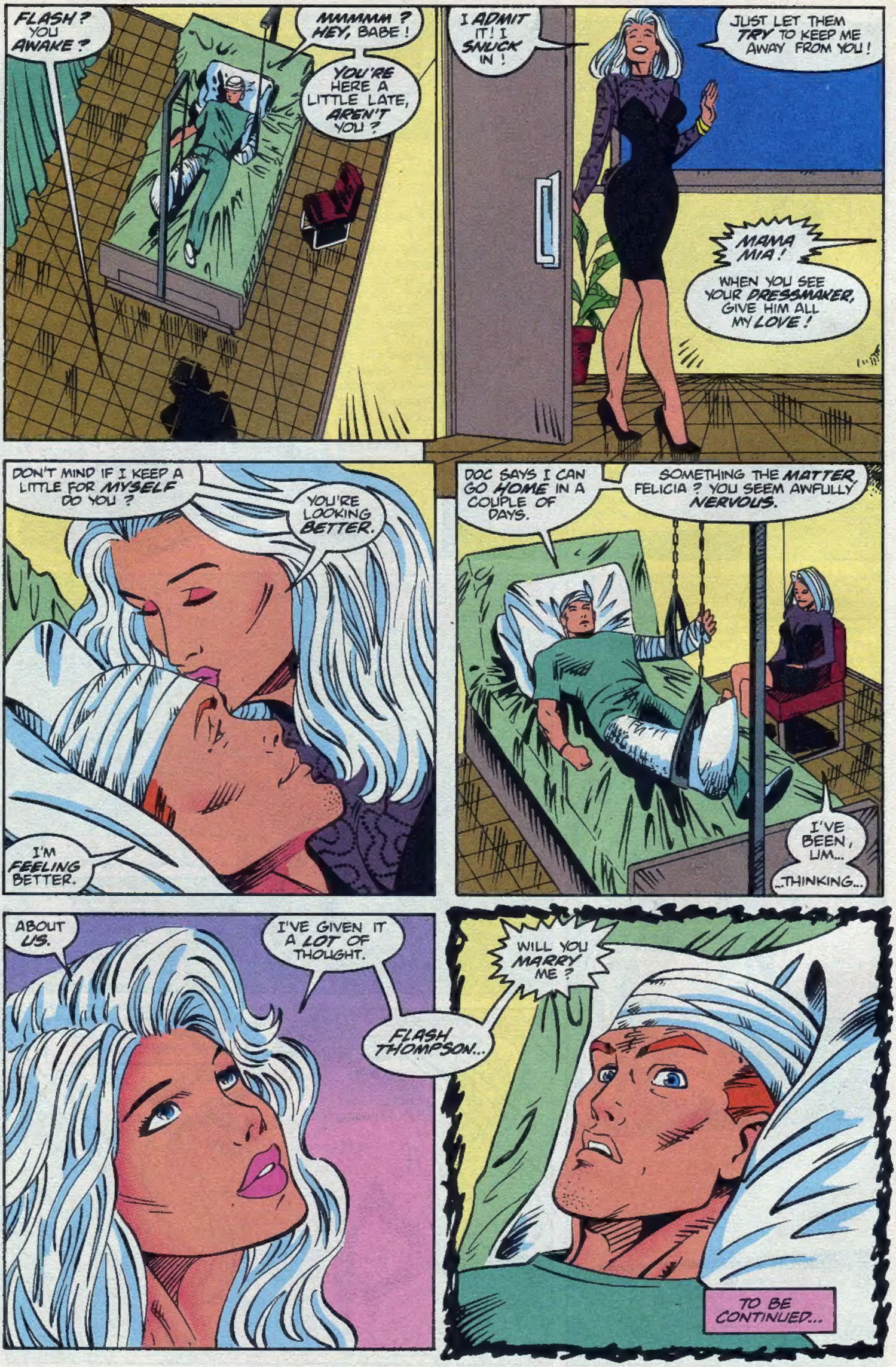
... AN ORDINARY MAN, WITH LITTLE ADVENTURE IN HIM.
SHE HAS ALWAYS KEPT HER DISTANCE FROM THE ORDINARY, HATING THE PROSPECT OF BEING ORDINARY.

WHAT, SHE WONDERS, HAS GOTTEN INTO HER ?
SUDDENLY THE BLACK CAT BIT FEELS TIRED, AND OLD.


AND FELICIA HARDY HAS SO MUCH MORE LIFE AHEAD OF HER.
WITH HIM.
A LIFETIME ALMOST ENDED BEFORE IT BEGAN--


--THE MAN SHE LOVES BEATEN ALMOST TO DEATH--
-- A BEATING SHE FAILED TO AVENGE.
LEAVING HER TO DECIDE: IS A "NORMAL" MAN--A VULNERABLE MAN-- WHAT SHE WANTS?

BUT SHE KNOWS NOW...
...FROM THE MOMENT SHE MET HIM...
...HER DECISION WAS ALREADY MADE...


FLASH? YOU AWAKE?
MMMMM? HEY, BABE!
YOU'RE HERE A LITTLE LATE, AREN'T YOU?
I ADMIT IT! I SNUCK IN!
JUST LET THEM TRY TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM YOU!
MAMA MIA!
WHEN YOU SEE YOUR DRESSMAKER, GIVE HIM ALL MY LOVE!
DON'T MIND IF I KEEP A LITTLE FOR MYSELF DO YOU?
YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER.
I'M FEELING BETTER.
DOC SAYS I CAN GO HOME IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.
SOMETHING THE MATTER, FELICIA? YOU SEEM AWFULLY NERVOUS.
I'VE BEEN, UM...
...THINKING...
ABOUT US.
I'VE GIVEN IT A LOT OF THOUGHT.
FLASH THOMPSON...
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
TO BE CONTINUED...

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

MARK POWERS
EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Web-Slingers,

I just read SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #204-205, and all I can say is, "Wow"! "Death by Tombstone" is the best series within a series since "Maximum Carnage." Tombstone himself is totally awesome. He's big, powerful, determined, deadly, not to mention he's kicking everybody's butt. What surprises me is that this seems to include the Black Cat and the Web-Slinger himself! It looks like trouble in any way you look at it, because Tombstone is seemingly unstoppable. Black Cat's relationship with Spider-Man may be on the verge of annihilation, and Flash Thompson just got beaten to a pulp. Go get him, Web-Slinger!

Jack Meischen
Austin, TX 78703

A fan from Texas!? Surely then, you realize that Spider-Man is simply fulfilling the mythical role first established by the great Troy Aikman, rising from the ashes of defeat, to clinch victory not just for himself, but his friends and teammates around him. See the connection?

Dear Mark and Danny,

Re: SPECTACULAR #205:

Steven Grant has picked up right where J.M. left off. Sal Buscema is still one of the few pencilers who remembers what storytelling is. His graphics never cease to amaze me. Plus, he seems to be the only Spider-artist who is capable of drawing a drop-dead gorgeous Mary Jane. More of a focus on Mary Jane and Peter's private lives would keep the books more interesting. After all, we can't have the spider without the man, right?

Thanks for listening.

L.T.
(Address withheld by request)

Glad to see you have an interest in our hero's private life, L.T. If you keep reading (and we know you will) then you'll experience major, dare we say . . . upheaval in the lives of Peter and M.J. We can say no more!

Dear Mr. Powers,

I've been a long-time fan of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN for as long as I can remember. In fact, I have every single issue of the book including the black and white magazines. When I heard that J.M. DeMatteis was leaving the book, I feared the worst. Fear not! Mr. Powers, you are clearly on the ball, doing a great job of keeping this book at the top of my list. Steven Grant's writing has been very solid, and really, there's a shortage of superlatives when it comes to praising Mr. Sal Buscema. Great stuff!

I heard the other day that Nightwatch is going to be getting his own ongoing series. Is this true, and when does the first issue come out? I can't wait!

Joe Richardson
Brooklyn, NY

Because you asked, there is a Nightwatch series coming out. However, it is a limited series by the incredible team of Terry (WEB) Kavanagh, Ron (SILVER SURFER) Lim, and Al (Everything-at-one-time-or-another) Milgrom! The first issue should be out in February, and if you folks ask for it, maybe Nightwatch will get his own series!

Dear Mark,

Oh, how the mighty have fallen. Steven Grant has done a great job of creating havoc not just for Spidey, but his colorful and intriguing array of supporting characters as well. It's really nice when they can step into the main story rather than being relegated to the background all the time. Between the four Spidey-titles, it seems that all the supporting characters we've come to love are getting a good workout, and I for one really appreciate that. Keep on going strong!

William Bradsky
(Address withheld by request)

If you think they've had a good workout so far, you ain't seen nothing yet! Keep reading, we think you'll be as surprised as you are thrilled by what lies ahead. Sufice it to say, nothing will ever be the same.

Dear Spectacular-People,

Issue #205 was, well, Spectacular! I loved the mechinations of Tombstone and his all-out battle with Spidey at the end. I know Peter will live, but I'm curious to see how he does it. The subplot with Liz was cool and unexpected, and watching Harry "in action" again make me realize how long it's been since he played an active role in Spidey's life instead of just Peter's.

I've been enjoying the back-up features in the various Spider-books. It's nice to focus in on different characters we don't know to well, or put a new spin on "old" characters like J.J.J. Good stuff!

Sidney Hatcher
P.O. Box 328
27 Palmeroy St.
Atlanta, GA 07115

Our stable of Spidey supporting characters is as large and varied as any at Marvel! We always enjoy seeing what makes them tick, and we're glad you seem to feel the same way.

From the Ranch:

Sorry for all the Cowboys references, but I can't resist! Seriously, I'd like to encourage everyone to write in and express their opinions--positive, negative, specific, or general topics. It truly does matter.

-Mark

NEXT ISSUE: All heck breaks loose, as Spidey reluctantly teams up with the Foreigner to fight all kinds of renegade assasins! Be there, or be square! Yeah, I said it!

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(signed) Diane Rivers — Business Manager